



RECEIVED

Gwatney Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-Isuzu • 2000 Covington Pike • Memphis, TN 38128 • 901.387.2000
www.gwatney.com

Ms. Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
DOCKET ROOM

Dear Chairman Kyle,

I am writing you today to encourage you to allow BellSouth the opportunity to add long distance to their portfolio of services. I have followed the progress of the 1996 Telecom Act and know the timing is correct for BellSouth to be in long distance.

I am in the automobile business and imagine if my company had to compete without a service department, a truck product, or SUV product. Customers want complete services with a hassle-free process. Companies that can provide complete solutions simplify our current business and personal environment. I currently have my local service, equipment, data and internet with BellSouth. I want a complete package and BellSouth under the current regulations cannot by law provide long distance. I need that option.

I also served as Chairman of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and as a board member of the Governor's Regional Alliance. The Governor's Alliance is made up of Governors' Sunquist of Tennessee, Huckabee of Arkansas, and Musgrove of Mississippi. The alliance was formed to maximize the potential of the Memphis Region. One of the findings of this group was a regional calling plan that would be beneficial to both residential and business customers. Under the current law BellSouth and Southwestern Bell cannot engage in these regional plans. The existing carriers are not concerned with local or regional calling plans, nor would they be able to provide a complete package of products.

These are real examples of why I think it is important for BellSouth to be allowed to participate in long distance and providing a total package.

Sincerely,

Russell Gwatney

BBJ

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2002

SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.



RECEIVED

RECEIVED

'02 AUG 5 AM 10 30

AUG 05 2002

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
DOCKET ROOMSARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

August 2, 2002

The Honorable Sara Kyle, Chair
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Sara:

I have read with interest about the pending issue regarding BellSouth entering into the long distance market in Tennessee. Now is the time for the TRA to act to help our economy. By opening the doors for long-distance for BellSouth, you can help reduce household expenses for millions of Tennessee women. As a long-time advocate for women in our state, I know how critical it is for all of us to manage our budgets effectively and to save where we can.

As I understand it, BellSouth's entry into long distance will result in lower overall phone bills for customers. In states where the former Bell companies have been allowed to provide long-distance service, consumers pay less for long-distance. That makes sense for Tennesseans.

As a business owner, it concerns me that our consumers are not getting as much of a break in Tennessee as they are in other states where competition has been encouraged. We already have more than 100 companies in Tennessee offering competitive local service, with an additional 75 with TRA approval. BellSouth entry into long distance will bring real competition to our state.

My biggest concern is that Tennessee not continue to lag behind when it comes to education and access to technology. There are clear links between educational opportunities and telecommunications infrastructure. BellSouth has made a significant investment in our metro and rural areas to bring high speed Internet access to as many Tennesseans as possible. This will only benefit the women and children of our state. By permitting BellSouth to enter the long distance market, you will be encouraging infrastructure development and continued capital investment. This is critical to developing our children, our future workforce and our adult women, for whom this technology can bring the benefits of higher education and better jobs.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Wood**Conference and Event Planning**

405 Westland Drive Lebanon, Tn 37087

Phone: 615-444-9663 Fax: 615-444-6611 E-mail: ycwood@aol.com

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2002

SARA KYLE, COMMISSIONER
TN PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.